

SYRACUSE, NEW YORK
POST-STANDARD

m. 100,052

S. 103,341

Front Page Edit Page Other Page

APR 26 1964

Retaliation Barred**Charges U.S. Handicaps S. Vietnam***To the Editor of The Post-Standard:*

One of the most important and least understood activities of the U. S. Government is in its advisory capacity in the war to save Southeast Asia from ruthless Communist take-over. In yesterday's (April 21) Post-Standard your columnist, Walter Lippmann, gives an example of the circular thinking which is being done by partially informed people in the U. S.

He criticizes Richard Nixon for condemning the "Yalu river concepts of private sanctuaries," and the suggestion that North Vietnam's illegal actions in Laos be countered by retaliation. Apparently Mr. Lippmann favors the kittenish policy of surrendering all of the initiative to the dedicated assassins from North Vietnam and China, who violate Laos' neutrality at will, when the most effective defense would be a few air strikes against carefully selected military targets in North Vietnam.

Just as we ill-advisedly missed the boat in China, which Mr. Lippmann tosses off as an "old chestnut," so we are fettering our protege, South Vietnam, by restricting it from effective retaliation against the ruthless enemy.

Mr. Lippmann also has had unkind words against our most successful soldier since

George Washington, the late Gen. Douglas MacArthur. Let's consider for a moment what our late beloved President John F. Kennedy, said of the China debacle, in a speech on July 30, 1949, "Our policy in China has reaped the whirlwind—what our young men had saved, our diplomats and our President have frittered away."

Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge arrived in Saigon after an officious charge d'affaires, William Trueheart, had been mishandling the Embassy for seven weeks since kindly and understanding Frederick Nolting, Jr. was recalled to Washington to explain the Communist-inspired Buddhist demonstrations in Saigon and Hue.

Lodge immediately fell under the Trueheart-Hickerson fallacies and, with his full six foot three stature, confronted the dedicated, Christian President, Ngo Dinh Diem, who, though only five foot four, nobly resisted. Lodge got into a hassle with his former friend from Massachusetts, top American commander, Paul D. Harkins, over military policy, calling for a Trueheart inspired pull-back at a time when President Diem and his brother Nhu were brilliantly winning in their "strategic hamlet" program. Gen. Harkins upheld Diem and Nhu.

Mr. Lodge also got into a hassle with CIA Chief John H. Richardson, who was helping Diem's chief adviser, his brother Nhu, in extending the fortified village network which was choking off the base from which the Communist Vietcong operated, and, improperly, asked for his recall.

In October, 1963, Mrs. Ngo Dinh Nhu came over asking from the U. S. simple justice and she got nothing from us. Not everybody in the United States was indifferent or hostile to her, even after reading the deliberately slanted hogwash the State Department was busily feeding to the newspapers.

Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield and Republican leaders, Richard Nixon and Mayor Samuel Yorty were among those who understood her well enough to sympathize with her for the frightful handling of Vietnamese affairs by low level policy-makers in Saigon, such as the Trueheart-Hickerson Committee.

Later, when the Embassy-sponsored coup broke, Ambassador Lodge stood by with a body-guard of 15,000 military "advisers" and a bland smile, permitting the two best civilian leaders to be brutally murdered.

It is not yet generally known that the United Nations' fact-finding mission, requested by President Diem, at the suggestion of the since-widowed Mrs. Nhu, has now reported that the Buddhist disturbance had been entirely political—there had been no religious persecution, whatever.

Since the coup, some of the "policy-makers" have been quietly replaced in the State Department. Yet the great secrecy which surrounds all the moves of the State Department has prevented the American public from learning of the true situation

in South Vietnam, and newspapermen throughout the country have been speaking out against this policy, naming Defense and State Departments as the worst offenders. Secretary of State Dean Rusk has said that if we lose South Vietnam it would cost us billions of dollars to protect Southeast Asia from encroachment. There has been little said about what happens to us after Red China stockpiles nuclear destruction.

CONRAD R. KOLBE,
3412 James St., Syracuse.

MORI/CDF